



◀ Oil wells dot the Prairie wheat fields

working long hours. The city streets are broad and the rivers long. The Saskatchewan-Nelson river system flows for 1,600 miles from the mountains to Hudson Bay, bisecting the three Prairie Provinces.

It was this rich agricultural land that attracted the immigrants who poured into Canada from Europe and helped to populate the Prairies in the first decade of the twentieth century. As a result, Canada has become one of the world's great wheat-exporting countries. But, although Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta are known as the Prairie Provinces, the cultivated plains really form a small fraction of their total area. As do most Canadian provinces, they stretch into the unsettled northland and draw much of their sustenance from it. Manitoba, for example, lies partially within the Canadian Shield and recent mineral discoveries, such as the

copper-nickel deposits at Lynn Lake and Moak Lake, are becoming important in the province's economy. One of the big post-war developments in Saskatchewan has been the discovery, on the northern boundary of the province at Beaverlodge, of large uranium deposits which now account for about 22 per cent of Canada's uranium.

The significant change in the prairie economy, however, has been brought about by continued discoveries of oil in all three provinces but largely in Alberta, whose Turner Valley District has been a producer since 1914. Seventy-one per cent of Canada's oil comes from this province, where production has been increas-

2. Silos near Regina, Saskatchewan

ing year by year since the discovery of the Leduc field near Edmonton in 1947. By 1953 oil had replaced gold as Canada's most important mineral, and it is expected that the three Prairie Provinces may eventually produce about half as much oil as the entire United States. Pipelines have already been built and more are being constructed to carry both oil and natural gas to the industrial markets of Eastern Canada and the Pacific Coast. In 1960 the Prairies produced 190 million barrels of oil. The Athabasca tar sands of northern Alberta, still unexploited, are estimated to contain at least 250 billion barrels of oil and total prairie reserves are ten times as great.

3. Grain elevators at High River, Alberta

